

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHELLE ASH'S 25 YEARS OF HOUSE SERVICE

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the longtime service of Michelle Ash to the House of the Representatives. Michelle is leaving Congress after 25 years of distinguished service.

For 25 years this institution has greatly benefited from Michelle's passion for protecting consumers. Over the last decade, as the Energy and Commerce Committee's Chief Counsel for Consumer Protection, Michelle has been at the helm for many policy issues that directly impact consumers. Whether it be developing the guidelines for ensuring that autonomous vehicles are safe, keeping unsafe toys off the shelves, ensuring safe packing of toxic substances, fighting to protect Americans' personal data from abuse and misuse, or protecting consumers from scams, Michelle always puts consumers first.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Michelle decided soon after graduating from law school that a career in a law firm was not where she saw herself making a difference. Instead, she wanted to be involved in crafting policy, and there was no better place to do that than here in Washington.

Michelle began her career in the House in the office of then-Congressman Ben Cardin of Maryland. There she focused on foreign affairs, the judiciary, Social Security, and congressional ethics. In 1997, she served for a short time as counsel for the House Ethics Reform Task Force.

In 1998, she joined the staff of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee as Chief Legislative Counsel for then Ranking Member Henry Waxman. At OGR Michelle focused on legislative initiatives that brought more transparency to government, including initiatives to protect whistleblowers.

Ten years later, in 2009, when Congressman Waxman became Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Michelle moved over with him to serve as the Committee's Chief Counsel on Consumer Protection.

Over the last ten years, Michelle has been a determined consumer advocate, pressing federal agencies to put safety first by using all the tools and authorities at their disposal to protect consumers and holding companies accountable when their actions harm consumers. She has pushed the Consumer Product Safety Commission to take swift action to protect Americans, and particularly children, from furniture tip-overs, dangerously strong magnets that were being swallowed by kids, liquid nicotine improperly packed and being ingested by kids, and much more.

She has continuously fought to give the Federal Trade Commission more authority to fulfill its mission to prevent harm to consumers, not just taking enforcement action after harm has already been done. She has also worked to advance the cause of auto safety—urging more effective and expedient action on deadly unintended acceleration and brake failures, faulty ignition switches that prevented airbags from deploying, and exploding airbags that turned a safety device into a

death device. And at the same time, she has been a mentor to many young staffers, sharing with them the benefits of her experience and expertise.

Having spent 25 years working on Capitol Hill, there have been many late nights and weekends spent negotiating legislative language and preparing for committee hearings, and I want to acknowledge the support Michelle has received from her husband, Doug Klein, and children, Erin and Sasha.

Mr. Speaker, American consumers are safer today thanks to Michelle Ash's 25 years in Congress. I wish her nothing but the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES KINS FOR THE 2018 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

**HON. GREG GIANFORTE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charles Kins of Eureka, a recipient of the 2018 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Kins answered his country's call to service by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in 1967, during the Vietnam War. He served four years on active duty, stationed mainly in Japan, and two years as a Marine Corps Reservist.

Mr. Kins is a proud supporter and member of his local American Legion Post 74 in Eureka, and a dedicated volunteer and advocate for seniors in his community. He is actively involved with the Tobacco Valley Senior Citizens Center providing hot meals for seniors and maintenance of the community center. In 2016, his dedication earned him the Senior Center's "Senior of the Year" award. Even though he's nearing his 70th year, Mr. Kins continues to dedicate himself to serving others in his community.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Charles Kins for his dedication and service.

RECOGNIZING THE NAZARETH ACADEMY FOOTBALL TEAM FOR THEIR 2018 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Nazareth Academy Roadrunners football team on winning their third state championship in 5 years. The players' commitment in reaching this goal is truly commendable. On November 24th, Nazareth Academy won the Class 7A Illinois state football championship with a 31-10 victory over Saint Charles North High School at Memorial Stadium in Champaign. I would like to recognize all of the time the players, staff, and families have put in to this endeavor, and commend them on their dedication and persever-

ance. I also want to congratulate Coach Tim Racki and the Principal of Nazareth Academy, Jim Meredith, for mentoring these young men and leading them to victory.

During the championship game, senior receivers Michael Love and Diamond Evans finished the game with 166 and 125 all-purpose yards respectively. They were supported by sophomore quarterback J.J. McCarthy who completed 15 of 24 passes, for 201 yards.

This victory completed a near perfect 13-1 season for the Roadrunners, allowing Nazareth to claim their third championship in five years, adding this 7A title to their ones in the 6A and 5A divisions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Nazareth Academy Roadrunners football team and to congratulate them on their IHSA Class 7A State Championship. And I wish each player continued success as he moves forward.

HONORING THE WATKINS HORNETS AND RIDGE ROAD TITANS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATIONS

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing two District of Columbia-based organizations, the Watkins Hornets Youth Association and the Ridge Road Titans Youth Coalition, on winning the American Youth Football National Championships.

On December 7, 2018, the Watkins Hornets and the Ridge Road Titans traveled to Florida to compete in the American Youth Football National Championships for their respective age groups, ranging from nine to 13 years old. Each of these student athletes, as well as their parents and coaches, persevered through a long season, balancing school, football and other extracurricular activities to become national champions.

Watkins Recreation Center and Ridge Road Recreation Center, which house their respective football teams, are among the elite when it comes to football. They place a strong emphasis on players as students first and athletes second. Located in the heart of the District's Wards 6 and 7, these organizations have been vital to their surrounding communities, providing programs to at-risk youth and families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these student athletes, parents and coaches on a job well done, as well as in acknowledging the work of both of these organizations in being community strongholds.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on December 12, 2018, I missed Roll Call Vote 434. As I argued on the floor during debate on the rule for the bill, had I been present, I would have voted YES on the farm bill conference report.